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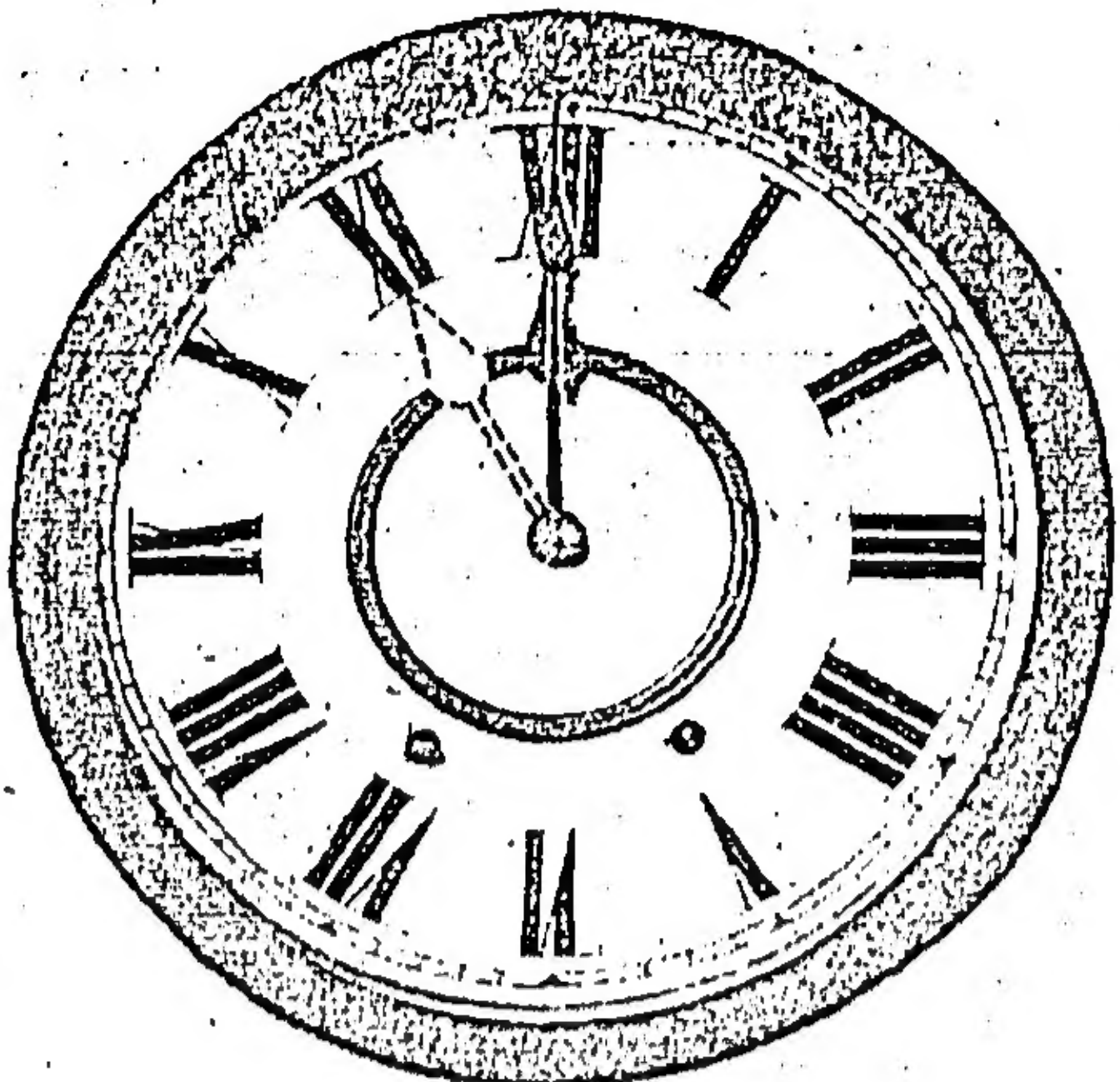
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VOL. III NO. 257

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1948.

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Tonight



Labour Government's Measure To Nationalise Steel

London, Oct. 29.—The British government will become the owner of 107 companies capitalised at £195,000,000 under its iron and steel nationalisation programme published yesterday.

Conservatives are already waging an all out fight against the plan but the government's overwhelming strength makes its adoption virtually a certainty.

The government indicated that the bill would not be rushed, however, and political observers predicted that months would be spent in Parliamentary wrangling. Final passage may not come until late next year. Taken into government ownership outright through a stock purchase arrangement will be all firms which turn out 50,000 tons or more of iron ore or 20,000 tons or more of other products per year.

GOVT. LICENCES

Firms producing less than those amounts but more than 5,000 tons per year will be required to obtain government licences to continue in business.

Firms producing less than 5,000 tons a year can operate without licences. The motor car industry is specifically exempt from the nationalisation programme, but inclusion of some steel subsidiary companies will put the government into the business of turning out such finished products as tennis rackets, printers' ink, safety pins and other major and minor goods.

The nationalised firms will be allowed to retain their old names and trade marks.

FIRMS LISTED

Among the more prominent firms included in the list are Dorman Long and Company, Guest Keen Baldwin Iron and Steel Company, Richard Thomas and Baldwins Ltd., South Durham Steel and Iron Company, The Steel Company of Wales,

Stewarts and Lloyds, Thomas Firth and John Brown Ltd, Burnelle and Company, Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Hadfields Ltd, John Lysaght, the Lancashire Steel Corporation, The United Steel Companies, and William Beardmore and Company. Lord Clydesdale, a Director of Colvilles Ltd, one of the firms to be nationalised, described the measure in a luncheon speech at Glasgow yesterday as "a sparrow in the works of industry."

Compensation for the companies will be made by the issue of "British Iron and Steel stock" equal in the opinion of the Treasury to the value of the company shares on the date of transfer, taking into consideration the market value of government securities on about that date. The compensation will be based upon stock exchange quotations on certain unspecified dates or agreements between the Minister of Supply and the stockholders' representatives. If no stock quotation exists on the selected dates and agreement fails, compensation will be settled by arbitration.

300,000 EMPLOYED

The companies to be nationalised, including their wholly owned subsidiaries, now employ about 300,000 persons.

The bill will prohibit any unusual profit taking by the private owners just before the government takes over.

It requires that stock dividends and interest payments be held to the minimums set out in the various company charters. If any excess is

paid out the government has authority to recover the money from the Directors.

There are about 500 companies engaged in the iron and steel business in Britain. Of these 242 are engaged in the basic processes of digging iron ore, blast furnace smelting, steel ingot manufacture and steel hot rolling.

In terms of capacity, the government will acquire 97.5 per cent of the ore producers; 97.3 per cent of the smelters; 99.3 per cent of the ingot plants and 93.6 per cent of the rolling mills.—Associated Press.

Tragic Death Of Paul Kong

JUMPS OR FALLS FROM BUILDING

Paul Kong, prominent Hong-kong tennis player, jumped or fell to his death from one of the floors of Marina House Queen's Road Central this morning.

He hit the pavement head first and death was instantaneous.

The tragedy occurred shortly before 9 o'clock. One passer-by said he saw the body falling to the ground, but he did not see whether it was caused by a leap or a fall.

The late Mr Kong was employed as sports goods salesman for the Dunlop Rubber Company.

SEALED LETTER FOUND

A basket and a coat belonging to the deceased was found in his office this morning as well as a sealed letter which was handed over to the Police.

When the police and ambulance arrived on the scene it was impossible to identify Kong owing to the nature of his injuries.

However in his pockets were found several visiting cards bearing the name of Paul T. C. Kong, together with a number of bills and correspondence on Dunlop Rubber Company stationery.

Apparently Kong arrived at the office very early this morning and only the office boy was present.

Paul Kong was a veteran Far East tennis player of long repute. More than 20 years ago he, with Gordon Lum, represented China in the Davis Cup.

Kong was a Shanghai Interport player and for several years figured prominently in the Hongkong tennis championships. Two years ago he appeared in the final of the men's doubles with Ip, but they lost to the Tsui brothers.

He played regularly for the Chinese Recreation Club in the "A" Division of the tennis league, generally partnering Lee Wai-long.

LATER

It has been revealed that the sealed letter found in the late Mr Kong's office was addressed to his wife.

He is reported to have told his wife yesterday that he intended to visit Macao today on business. Kong leaves a widow and two children.

FRENCH GOVT. STOPS TRAIN SERVICES

Broadcasting Stations' Two-Hour Strike

SITUATION MAY IMPROVE BY NEXT WEEK

Paris, Oct. 29.—The Ministry of Public Works tonight directed the French railway authorities to cancel a considerable number of passenger trains from next Wednesday until further notice, it was announced by the Railway Administration.

A Transport Ministry spokesman said that 28 out of 34 coal ships in French ports were held up because of the dockers' refusal to handle imported coal.

A cold spell, with a sharp northeast wind, tonight caught many Parisians without central heating in their apartments because of the 27-day-old miners' strike. The temperature at 6 p.m. GMT was seven degrees Centigrade. It is expected that the minimum to be registered during the night would be zero. The Meteorological Office predicted a cold weather spell until next Monday.

Technicians of the French broadcasting network went on strike for two hours at 7 GMT tonight. A spokesman for the technicians said: "We have gone on strike because our demands which were made in June have not been satisfied."

The French National Radio network went off the air when the strike began. The radio resumed transmission shortly before 8 p.m. GMT but only recorded music was played.

Radio Headquarters in Paris were inundated with telephone enquiries as to the cause of the break. In the Loire region, engineers took possession today of the last pit occupied by strikers. Engineers who descended into the important Cournot pit at St Etienne after it was cleared earlier today found that damage was less than had been expected.

Paul Ramadier, the Minister of Defence, said today that he had such hopes of an improved situation beginning next week in the strike-bound coalfields that the return of troops to their garisons within a short time could be already foreseen.

NO RESISTANCE

He said at the moment no resistance was being shown and the back to work tendency was growing.

A spokesman of the Ministry of the Interior said tonight that the Government now holds 75 per cent of all pitheads in France. All pits in the Loire Basin are in police hands. Troops were unloading coal today at St. Etienne, Clermont and Cherbourg. No coal was unloaded at any other French port.

Attempts to halt the movement of coal trains brought no results and all trains are running to schedule.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport tonight announced the suspension of two National Railway directors "on account of the incompatibility between the exercise of their functions and an appeal issued to the railway workers aimed at preventing the functioning of the railways."

The non-Communist labour force Ouvrier informed the French Premier, M. Henri Queuille, tonight that they intended to appeal to all miners to return to work without further delay.

ORDERED TO WORK

Communist trade union leaders ordered miners back to work in two Gard Department mines in the south tonight. The management interpreted this as a Communist move to change over to a stay-in or go-slow strike.

Miners in the southern and central coalfields led the movement back to work. A Ministry of the Interior spokesman said. Safety men at Valenciennes (northern coalfields) have asked for protection, saying that they were being threatened by strikers, he added.

The Metal Workers' Federation Council of the Confederation Generale du Travail, at a meeting in Paris tonight, decided to put forward immediately to the employers' organisation demands for wage increases based on a minimum living wage of 15,000 francs a month against the present national minimum of 12,000 francs and the application of a sliding scale whereby wages should rise with the cost of living.

The Ministry of the Interior announced today that 212 Republican security guards, 77 Mobile guards and police and 15 soldiers had been injured since the campaign for eviction of the strikers from the pitheads began on October 18—when the coal strike was a fortnight old.

None of the Government forces had been killed in clashes with the strikers.

CABINET MEETING

The French Premier, M. Queuille, has called a meeting of his Cabinet tonight to discuss, it was believed, proposals to send troops to unload coal ships at eight French ports. The Minister of Public Works, M. Christian Pineau, has asked the General Staff to send troops to unload imported coal "banned" by the dockers in support of the miners' strike. The soldiers will be sent to Dieppe, Rouen, Le Havre, Bordeaux, St Nazaire, Dunkirk and Boulogne, it was earlier reported.

The Minister of Public Works, M. Jules Moch, earlier had announced that troops and police were moving into pits in the northern coalfields and had occupied the objectives set for tomorrow as well as those for today.

Up to last night, 712 people had been arrested in strike incidents, it was announced by the Ministry spokesman. Of this total, 441 arrests were made yesterday. Of those arrested, 920 were being held in prison. There were 85 foreigners. Another 52 foreigners had been expelled from France.—Reuter.

Major Actions In Burma

Rangoon, Oct. 29.—Friday's military communique reported two major actions in South and Central Burma. It said that a two hour action was fought between Government troops and 100 rebels at a village, five miles North of the town of Bassein in the Delta.

The rebels burned the village but Government troops recovered a large quantity of paddy from the retreating rebels.

The communique stated that in the midwestern Paronku district, Government forces raided a rebel encampment encountering 200 rebels. In the battle more than 60 rebels were killed and the remainder fled. The Communique added that mopping up operations are taking place along the Pakonku district border.

Meanwhile, the Regional Autonomy Commission inquiring into the question of separate states for the Karen, Mon and Arakanese minorities appointed a Sub Committee for dealing with the problems relating to the specific requirements of each minority.

Karen sources told the Associated Press that the sub-committee pointed for the Karens will decide the all important problem of whether the Karens should have a state within Burma or outside with complete sovereignty.—Associated Press.

Early Peace Treaty Urged

London, Oct. 29.—The British Government considers there should be an early peace treaty with Japan, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Christopher Mayhew, told the Commons today. Progress towards a treaty had not been satisfactory and there had been too long a wait already, he said.

To a criticism that the industrial activity of Japan was being "regalvanized," Mr Mayhew said that if Japanese industry was being reactivated, then that was in a sense a measure against the inroads of Soviet Communism. But to deny her the right of economic recovery did not seem to be fair, or logical, he said.

The Government's view was that there must be a level of industry in Japan which allowed a reasonable standard of life for the people and just reparation for those who suffered from Japanese aggression.—Reuter.

More ERP Funds Are Required

Washington, Oct. 29.—The Marshall Plan Administrator, Mr Paul C. Hoffman, confirmed today that he would need over \$1,000,000,000 more to keep the European Recovery Programme going between April and June 1949.

He told a press conference that he would shortly write to the President telling him that the original appropriation of \$5,055,000,000 was not enough to keep the programme going for the full 15-month period until June 30 next (end of the American fiscal year) and that something over \$1,000,000,000 would be needed in addition.

He stressed, however, that from July 1, 1949, "there will not be the need for much if recovery is maintained at its present rate". Exact estimates of what will be needed for the April-June period next year are not available but reliable reports put the figure at \$1,200,000,000.

For the second full year of the programme, July 1, 1949 to June 30, 1950, it is expected that Congress will be asked for approximately \$4,000,000,000.

Mr Hoffman gave an optimistic report on general conditions in the Marshall Plan nations.

"In the direction of self-help the countries of Europe are making good in their pledges to us—and the same goes for mutual aid".

He again singled out Britain for the increases she has achieved in production and exports and the narrowing of her balance of payments gap. "These all must be rated as great achievements," he asserted.—Reuter.

UN To Consider Sanctions

Israeli Actions To Go On Trial

Paris, Oct. 29.—The United Nations Security Council passed to a sub-committee on Friday the hot issue of economic sanctions against Palestine.

The Council, without a formal vote but with Russia and the Soviet Ukraine abstaining, set up a Committee to study a resolution proposed by Britain and China. The resolution would have the effect of forcing Israel to withdraw from positions in the Negev Desert she won in recent hard fighting against the Egyptians.

The Council's action, some observers said, is expected to delay the economic sanctions question until after the elections in the U.S. on Tuesday.

The Soviet Union announced that it would not support the resolution and the Ukraine also opposed it but agreed to work on the sub-committee, which includes representatives of Britain, China, Belgium and France.—Associated Press.

ARABS ATTACK

Tel-Aviv, Oct. 29.—The Israeli Army said on Friday that the force of Arab attacks on the Central and Northern Palestine fronts had increased in the past 24 hours and the Jews have given up some ground.

A Jewish spokesman said Iraqi artillery, 15 miles from Tel-Aviv, was shelling the Ras el Ain area, just East of the Jewish capital, on Friday morning and that Iraqi infantry captured a second height inside Jewish territory in that area.

The Jews apparently are replying only with artillery and mortar fire.—Associated Press.

Soviets Ban Parcel Post

Frankfurt, October 29.—The Russian authorities—in Berlin ban virtually all German parcel post shipments between the West and the former German capital, the Military Government announced today.

The ban went into effect several days ahead of schedule when German railway cars carrying parcel post to Berlin, were halted at the Russian zone border earlier this week, a joint British and American announcement disclosed.

The reason for the ban was "transport difficulties" according to the German postal officials in the Russian zone.

Until the embargo was ordered, rail cars carrying mail parcels and small packages for the Germans in Berlin, have entered the Russian zone freely at the two American and British zone crossing points. New officials said that the Berlin parcel post system will have no serious available to or from Western Germany.—United Press.



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EDITORIAL

Stalin's Cheap Propaganda

Mr Stalin's interview with Pravda about the Berlin dispute and the recent Security Council debate on the subject was palpably intended for home consumption—more so for a population already suffering from propaganda feast. To the world which has been allowed to know the full facts of the Berlin problem it is a laughable interlude, for Stalin has wilfully permitted himself to prevaricate, distort and propagandise. He claims that the Western Powers' envoy who visited Moscow actually reached an agreement with the Kremlin to solve the Berlin issue, an agreement which their governments repudiated. But documentary evidence is already on record to show that while the talks nearly achieved an agreement—did, in fact, in principle attain that end, it was never allowed to be implemented because the Soviet military chiefs in Berlin deliberately ignored the necessary directive from Stalin and made further discussions on that level impossible. This apart, the Stalin interview follows precisely the same line as that pursued by Messrs Vyshinsky and Molotov for months past: non-sensical accusations of warmongering by the Western Powers and pious platitudes about the "forces of peace" eventually prevailing—meaning of course that everything will be fine so long as everybody agrees with the Soviets. The Stalin interview fails to contribute one iota to the furtherance of peace or friendship between Russia

and the rest of the big powers. Moreover his studied insult of the "neutral" countries who he is quoted as saying "support a policy of aggression, a policy of unleashing a new war," will do no good service to the Soviet cause. If Stalin were doing his utmost irretrievably to widen the breach between the East and the West he could not do about it more effectively than by uttering the sort of statements he has to Pravda. There is no hint of cogitation in his interview; no suggestion that he can appreciate any point of view other than his own; no utterance that indicates he even desires to consider a reasonable solution to the Berlin dispute. The whole tone of the interview is offensive, and lacks even saving grace of dignified diplomacy. Presumably the world outside of Russia and her satellite neighbours is not expected to take Mr Stalin's effort too seriously, but even if it be intended solely for the benefit of Stalin's subjugated citizens, it remains a menace. It is a false and unwarranted picture of the Berlin problem and the international diplomatic developments which have attended it. It will be believed by the Russians because they have no opportunity of hearing the truth, and it will represent yet another impulse intended to arouse hatred and suspicion of the western world in the minds of the ordinary Russian. Mr Stalin has long been recognised as unpredictable, but no one expected him to prostitute his intelligence and compromise his integrity for the sake of cheap propaganda.